

GUEST ARTIST RECITAL

JOHN ROBILETTE, Piano

Thursday, October 9, 2003

8:00 p.m.

Lillian H. Duncan Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

PROGRAM

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| <i>Adagio from</i>
<i>Concerto No. 3 for Oboe</i> | <i>Alessandro Marcello</i>
(1669-1747)
(trans. J.S. Bach) |
| <i>Chorale Prelude:</i>
<i>"It is Surely the Time"</i> | <i>J.S. Bach/Wilhelm Kempff</i>
(1685-1750)/(1895-1991) |
| <i>Ballet Music from</i>
<i>"Orpheus and Euridice"</i> | <i>Christoph Gluck/Wilhelm Kempff</i>
(1714-1787)/(1685-1895) |
| <i>Gavotte</i> | <i>Christoph Gluck/Johannes Brahms</i>
(1714-1787)/(1833-1897) |
|
<i>Chaconne in G Major, HWV 435</i> |
<i>George Frederic Handel</i>
(1685-1759) |
|
<i>Air (with five variations;</i>
<i>"The Harmonious Blacksmith")</i> |
<i>George Frederic Handel</i> |
|
<i>Sonata in A Major, Op. 101</i>
<i>Allegretto, ma non troppo</i>
<i>Vivace, alla Marcia</i>
<i>Adagio, ma non troppo, con affetto</i>
<i>Allegro</i> |
<i>Ludwig van Beethoven</i>
(1770-1827) |

INTERMISSION

- | | |
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| <i>Theme with Variations</i>
(transcribed by Brahms from the second
movement of his <i>Sextet in B-flat Major, Op. 18</i>) | <i>Johannes Brahms</i> |
|
<i>Lytic Pieces</i>
<i>Butterfly</i>
<i>Notturmo</i>
<i>Wedding-Day at Trolldhaugen</i> |
<i>Edvard Grieg</i>
(1843-1907) |

Invitation to the Dance, Op. 65

Carl Maria von Weber
(1786-1826)

Etincelles (Sparks), Op. 36 No. 6

Moritz Moszkowski
(1854-1925)

Etude in A-flat Major, Op. 72 No. 11

Melodie, Op. 18 No. 1

Etude in F Major, Op. 72 No. 6

The Juggler, Op. 52 No. 4

BIOGRAPHY

With an unusual background of training under former assistants to both Alfred Cortot and Artur Schnabel, as well as studies with Peter Feuchtwanger and Louis Kentner in London, JOHN ROBILETTE has performed in many of the major halls of the world including recitals at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Wigmore Hall in London. The November/December issue of *International Piano* magazine in London reviewed the live compact disc recording of the Wigmore Hall concert, "John Robilette Live at Wigmore Hall in London," (Musicians Showcase Recordings, MS 1043), by saying, "Instantly noticeable from Robilette's playing... is the sheer beauty of sound and quality of tone he produces from his instrument. Throughout his one-hour long program there is not a hard or ugly sound... this is a very enjoyable disc." His commercial compact disc recordings of piano concertos with the St. Petersburg Symphony of Russia and the Russian National Symphony, as well as solo repertoire, have been acclaimed in major record review periodicals in the United States and have been broadcast throughout the country on public and commercial radio from coast to coast including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and New York City, as well as on BBC Radio in London, England. The Spring 2002 edition of *Arietta*, the journal of the Beethoven Society of Europe, in reviewing his recording of the fourth piano concerto of Beethoven (Musicians Showcase Recordings, MS 1031), as well as the *Sonata, Op. 109* from "John Robilette Live at Wigmore Hall (MS 1043), said "It is always refreshing to encounter an artist of individuality, such as the American pianist, John Robilette, whose soundworld and style recalls the 'old school'... Robilette's intensely poetic approach recalls those magnetic interpreters of the past." They ended by calling him "a Beethoven interpreter of remarkable qualities." The *Music and Vision* Internet magazine in London, said of his recital at St. John's Smith Square on June 10, 2001, "The American pianist John Robilette is a musician of engaging individuality with a telling

attractive piano tone and idiosyncratic interpretive approach... It was this blend of intriguing musical idiosyncrasy and outlook that captivated the enthusiastic audience at his recital at London's St. John's... With such unusual programming and readings, yet projected with a strikingly attractive piano tone, John Robilette is a musician to watch, and listen out for." In their May/June 2001 issue, The American Record Guide said of his third commercial compact disc recording (Saint-Saëns second piano concerto, the Beethoven fourth, and the Mozart **Concert Rondo** with the New Philharmonic of Sofia, Bulgaria, released commercially by Musicians Showcase Recordings with Albany distributors in December of 2000), "Robilette gives a fine performance, and the orchestra plays very well. Competition is tough, but Robilette holds his own... Robilette plays the Mozart Rondo the way Schnabel or Edwin Fischer would have..." The Washington Post summed up his art by writing that "Robilette is a first-class artist who seems able to intuit effortlessly the composer's intent."

John Robilette has been featured in a live recital and interview over WNYC public radio in New York City ("Around New York"), and in a six and one-half page interview in the September/October 2001 issue of Fanfare magazine, as well as interviews and panel discussions over WBJC in Baltimore and the Voice of America. He has been nationally televised in Brazil and the Dominican Republic and has been invited by the American Ambassadors to Czechoslovakia, Uruguay, Luxembourg, and the Dominican Republic to perform at their embassies. In 1981 he was invited to perform a solo recital at the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., as part of the inaugural festivities for President Ronald Reagan. He has served as a juror for two international piano competitions in Europe and the United States and is a past member of the International Advisory Board of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. He has also commissioned thirteen major piano solo and chamber works by eminent contemporary American composers. These manuscripts reside in a special archive at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. John Robilette also created and directed the Artistic Ambassador program in the 1980s, a federally sponsored program to promote American musicians around the world. National Public Radio featured a story about Mr. Robilette and this program on its website on June 13, 2003. In March of 2002 he created a concert series for the Voice of America in Washington, D.C., in celebration of the VOA's 60th anniversary of broadcasting. This series was broadcast to over thirty million listeners featuring the finest classical musicians in the United States.

John Robilette will give a master class on Saturday, October 11,
from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Duncan Recital Hall.

Everyone is invited to attend.